



July 2009

Beacon House

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Here is the latest news from Beacon House for our prayers.

“We are a Christian Centre for the homeless and vulnerable in Colchester offering a Primary Health Care service. We have laundry and shower facilities, stores of clothing and toiletries, counselling and anger management groups, life skills classes as well as providing a listening ear and advice.

We currently run 5 life skills groups a week, where clients can brush up on forgotten practical skills, learn new ones and build up their confidence. Three groups are for recovering addicts.

Two are available to anyone who is or has been homeless, is unemployed or going through a bad time in their lives and needing support. Sadly at the time of writing we have no funding for these two groups from April this year, and their future is uncertain. We are searching and praying for sources of finance, as we would like to see them expand, not end.

Statistics for February 2009:

- 147 clients visited 663 times
- 430 snacks supplied
- Over 400 items of toiletries distributed

We give thanks:

- For many rucksacks that have been provided for clients to carry their possessions.

- For the wonderful new shower for the ladies
- For the many lives from North East Essex who are touched by this ministry
- That some clients now have accommodation

We pray for:

- Discernment concerning funding and grant applications
- Effective witness to clients
- A hairdresser
- A health care assistant

Beacon House is always looking for the following:

- Toiletries, especially shampoo, deodorant and shaving foam
- Large size shoes (size 8 and above)
- Packets of instant soup (for cups)
- Bottles of squash

For life skills programmes:

Baking: Plain flour, caster sugar, cocoa powder, golden syrup, baking chocolate, greaseproof paper

Arts and crafts: Any new kit or art materials (felt tips, paper, paints etc) sewing thread, zips etc.”

If you want to know more about Beacon House there is an open morning every month, and speakers are available to visit any group or church. Contact Alan Turner, Centre Manager Tel 01206 761960
www.beaconhouseministries.org.uk

Prayer Breakfast

Date: Saturday 4th July

Time: 8.30 am - 10.00 am

Venue: Colchester Baptist Church, Eld Lane

University of Essex

Friends International Praise:

- For the 6 weeks' successful 'Chatterbox' at the English Language centre. The evaluation by the students was very good, but we need more helpers please especially from Christian people who live near the centre for July and September from 7.30pm - 9pm on a Tuesdays. Please contact Joan at joandavie@gmail.com or Enoch tel 07969210284 if you can help

Please pray for:

- The summer programme for Pre-sessional students.
- Safety and a fine day for the trip to Flatford and Dedham on Saturday 25th July.
- The meals in Christian

homes on Wednesday evenings (from 6pm - 10pm) in August, that there will be enough volunteers. Please phone Michael and Caroline White if you can help. E-mail: frinco@essex.ac.uk or tel 825060

- Enough Christian folk who will befriend students i.e. give them an occasional meal or take them out for a run in the car etc. If you can help contact Michael and Caroline.

DATE for diary!

Saturday October 31st 'Honoured Guests' at Greenstead Free Church from 7pm-9.30pm. All who are interested in working with International students or would like in some way to be involved are invited.

Anglican Chaplaincy Please pray for:

- Staff and students at the University of Essex in their ongoing daily work at the university during exam times and graduation.
- Staff bereavement training given by Rev Thomas Yap.
- More support for the Anglican Chaplaincy, for volunteers, prayer and financial support.
- The outreach gazebo arranged by the Anglican Chaplaincy during Graduation with Christian books, booklets, water and chocolates for graduates

Thank you for praying. God bless Joan Davies

Hope in Colchester

Personal Communication and Evangelism Training.

With the summer event coming up on 22nd August we felt it would be good to offer some training. The training sessions are for anyone who wishes to know more about how to share their faith, how to approach people, how to be natural and simply how to communicate with members of the general public.

These will be based on personal communication, evangelism and how to share our faith. Coming to a session does not mean you have to take part in the summer event.

The Hope in Colchester team are interested in training people for future events in their own churches, and also events under

the banner of Hope in Colchester. These skills are invaluable and would benefit anyone who wants to share their faith with work colleagues, family members or strangers.

We will be holding a training evening on **Tuesday 14th July** at 745 pm, venue to be confirmed.

Contact details:
hopeincolchester@hotmail.co.uk
or James Collitt on 07977 510880

Hope on the Streets

Saturday 22nd August

More information in August Prayer Guide

Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester (SGBfC).

We have been praying about a possible festival for 2010. Following several meetings, times of prayer and discussions together we have decided that, though we continue to work together under the "Hope in Colchester" banner, there are no plans for a large scale festival at the moment. Please continue to pray for united Church in Colchester.

Praying for your MP. Prayer groups are in place to support the MP from your constituency.

To pray for Bob Russell contact Richard Smith:

richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk

If your constituency is North Colchester and you would like to pray for Bernard Jenkin contact Teresa Lasky:

admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

This is part of a Westminster initiative organised by Christians in Parliament.

24/10 Feedback

In May there was a 24/10 prayer room, leading up to the Global Day of Prayer.

24-10 Prayer Room May 2009

'If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land...' (2 Chron 7:14)

People - People from 12 church congregations representing the Church of Colchester signed up for 12 hour blocks of time in the prayer room. Another group of people faithfully and creatively helped to set-up and clear-up the prayer room. Many others not linked with the church yet, visited throughout the week. **Many thanks to all of you!**

Place – Meryl's shop (previously the pram shop) at the bottom of St Bottolph's Street was generously leased to the Church by Colchester Borough Council for business rates only for the 10 days. **Thank God for 'Hope in Colchester'** and their practical help including insurance cover for the venue.

Purpose – As well as taking on the challenge to 'pray continuously' for 10 days, the aim was that the prayer room would be a place of hospitality and welcome for those who might not otherwise go into a church building. We shut the prayer room to visitors after 8pm, and closed from midnight most days, as there were not enough volunteers to cover the night-time hours. People from the public visited everyday including a regular group of homeless people from the nearby Priory. **Thank you to all those who**

welcomed guests, as well as spending time in more focused prayer during your slots!

Prayer – The biggest answer to prayer was being given the shop venue to use! Even with many empty venues in the town centre, this was surprisingly difficult to obtain. **Pray for God to open up new places of prayer and worship in Colchester town centre and beyond.**

People wrote prayers on the walls, prayed in silence, in words, through music, pictures, film, collage and making paper 'prayeroplanes'. **Pray for people to know the presence of Jesus in creative ways, and in the reality of their everyday lives.**

We were also able to offer a prayer of blessing for a newly married couple, to pray for young people, families, soldiers, the needs of the homeless, as well as wider national and global issues.

We trust God for the fruit of these prayers...

For further info, or if you would be interested in making 24-7 prayer rooms happen in the future, please contact Richard and Katy Smith by e-mail to mail@colchesterboilerroomcommunity.org.uk or on 01206 52278.

Global Day of Prayer (GDOP)

All 220 nations of the world participated in the Global Day of Prayer! This has always been the goal of the organisers. *'Yes, what seemed impossible has become a reality: 1 city in 2001, 1 nation in 2002, 1 continent in 2004 and NOW hundreds of millions from thousands of cities in every single country of the world will be joining for the Global Day of Prayer!'* There are now 9 new GDOP websites in other languages -

Japanese, Polish, Italian, Bulgarian, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian and Korean.

Christians on **Taveuni Island Fiji**, which is on the International Dateline, again began the day of prayer for all of the nations of the earth. 'For the past three years, Taveuni has served to lead all the nations before God's throne as the islanders greet the first rays of dawn. There are about 10 different denominations that have cooperated in each of these prayer sessions'. 'In the **South of Sudan** we have reports of about 10 cities that were be involved. In the war ravaged provinces of the **Democratic Republic of Congo** they are receiving reports from many villages and towns who will be participating - even more than ever. *And so the news goes on from each continent and each country.*

Prime Minister Gordon Brown supports GDOP: 'I am delighted to give my backing to the fourth Global Day of Prayer. I was very pleased to host participants in last year's Day of Prayer at Downing Street and since then I have followed the growing momentum of the movement with great interest. Christians across Britain and the world will be coming together once again in a spirit of fellowship and social witness. By offering prayers for your communities and nations you are continuing a long-standing Christian tradition of prayer and action for the common good and I am pleased to send my best wishes and support.'

The next Global Day of Prayer will be on Sunday 23rd May 2010.

CYO

Gilberd School CU. This group has been running for two and a half years and the four girls who attend are now doing their GCSE exams. When asked if they'd like to carry on meeting after they've left the Gilberd School the answer was a resounding "Yes". We will therefore be continuing our work with them on a Thursdays from 4pm at a café in town.

Please pray:

- for these four girls, that God will continue to draw them into a relationship with him
- for inspiration and wisdom for us as we adapt to this new setting
- that 'Café CU' will grow and be fruitful

Sanctum

"Very enlightening, peaceful and relaxing. It has allowed us to think more about God. Thanks." Just one of the responses to Sanctum from a student showing the kind of impact it can make on young people's lives. This summer term we will be running Sanctum in two schools.

From 29th June Sanctum will be at Colchester Royal Grammar School, taking over the RE classroom and being available to

students at break time, lunch time and after school. We will also be trying something new in that RE groups from all years will be using Sanctum as part of a lesson.

The following week we're at the Gilberd School where we have been given the biggest space yet in which to set up. Here we will see only Years 7, 8 & 9. Year 8 students will visit Sanctum as part of their RE lessons and we are hoping that this will encourage many of them to come back at break times and lunch times. We're praying that many students will have a profound experience of God and that we will have many opportunities to talk with them about our faith.

Please pray:

- for all the preparation required
- that students will be drawn to Sanctum throughout the week
- for the presence of the Holy Spirit, and that there will be real answers to prayer

Sanctum - spreading the news

On Thursday 21st May, Tim and Amy travelled to a conference on "Creating Spiritual Spaces for Children and Young People".

From the feedback and conversations that followed our presentation Sanctum was very well received. What we found difficult was working out what different people understood by spirituality. Although it was great to sit in a room full of people who acknowledge there is 'something more', that was where the common denominator stopped. As Christians we believe not only in a God who is Spirit, but that this Spirit is personable and knowable. The spirituality we offer young people is more than a fuzzy feeling. It is a life giving Spirit, a personable Spirit and one who delights in us.

I am working with a team linked through 24-7 Prayer to develop some resources that will be useful to people who want to create prayer rooms for young people in schools.

Please pray for:

- Spiritual England, and especially Anna Lubelska, the Director, with whom we have built a good friendship
- 24-7 Prayer, the team developing resources for schools, and that God would open up opportunities

Tim Abbott

Barnabus Ministries

"These past two years we have been holding meetings in our own fellowship, with invited guests both Christian and un-churched friends, neighbours, family and work colleagues.

Our aim is to encourage brothers and sisters to be stronger in their faith and witness to those who do not know the Lord as their Saviour.

We now feel we are being led to open up the meetings to the

wider church in Colchester.

We have invited godly men to teach and encourage us on subjects that we feel the Lord has laid on our hearts, such as "Creation", "Health", "End Time Prophecies", "Love of our Father", and other such subjects.

We hope to have Robert Mitchell of Shofar Ministries and Genesis TV come to Colchester in October/November to speak on End Time Prophecies.

If you are interested in holding a meeting at your church, or if you would like us to come and speak at one of your meetings to explain more about Barnabus Ministries, please contact me".

Adrian Bland

Abbeyfield Community Church

01206 869559 or 07771 626548